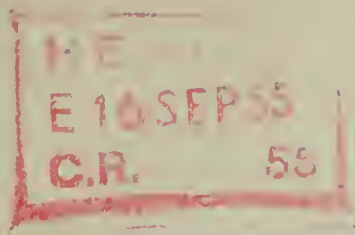



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WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S  
ANNUAL REPORT, 1954.





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To the Chairman and Members of the Withnell Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Withnell for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

The number of live births registered in the District during 1954 is 37 or 5 more than in the previous year, giving a Birth Rate of 13.0 as compared with 15.2 for England and Wales.

The number of deaths is 2 fewer than in the previous year and the Death Rate is 11.3 which is exactly the same as the Rate for the Country as a whole.

It is pleasing to report that there were no deaths of infants under one year of age. There was one such death in the previous year.

It is also very satisfactory to be able to report that again there were no deaths attributable to child-birth or pulmonary tuberculosis.

There were unfortunately eight deaths from malignant disease - twice as many as in the previous year, but the deaths from heart and circulatory diseases were reduced from fourteen to eight.

The number of notifications of infectious diseases during the year shows a marked increase due to an outbreak of measles.

The Scheme for the more efficient treatment of the water supplied has been approved in principle by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government but has not yet been commenced. Delay in matters of such vital importance may well have unfortunate results.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government (in Circular 30/54 of 22nd March, 1954) asked Councils to resume the full exercise of their power in regard to Slum Clearance and on 30th August, 1954, the Housing Repairs and Rents Act came into operation. Section 1 of this Act requires Councils to submit to the Minister within twelve months their proposals for dealing with unfit houses during the next five years. Several houses in the District will fall to be dealt with as totally unfit and there should also be active implementation of schemes to salvage houses which can be brought up to satisfactory standards.

Other matters regarding the Sanitary Circumstances are dealt with in the Report and require no special comments by me.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members for the kind consideration given to Dr. Doherty and myself at all times.

My thanks are also due to the Officers of the Council for their willing co-operations.

J. WALKER.



# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

## SECTION A.

The area of the district is 4,190 acres. The population figure at the 1931 Census was 3,040. For 1954 the Registrar General calculated the population as 2,840.

The rateable value was £14,260 and a penny rate produced £52.

The chief industries are Paper Making, Quarrying and a Saw Mill and Cotton Mills. There has been no change in social conditions.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
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### 1. LIVE BIRTHS.

Legitimate	11	25	36
Illigitimate	NIL	1	1

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population Crude 13.0  
Adjusted 14.6

### 2. STILL BIRTHS.

Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illigitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL

Rate per 1,000 TOTAL Births NIL.

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
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1. <u>ALL CAUSES</u>	12	20	32
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Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population Crude 11.3  
Adjusted 11.0

### 2. RESPIRATORY T.B.

	NIL	NIL	NIL
--	-----	-----	-----

Rate per 1,000 estimated population NIL.

### 3. MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS.

	3	5	8
--	---	---	---

Rate per 1,000 estimated population 2.82

### 4. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Pregnancy, childbirth  
 abortion NIL  
 Rate per 1,000 TOTAL Births NIL.

### 5. INFANTILE MORTALITY.

#### A. Under one year

Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illigitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL

Rate per 1,000 LIVE Births NIL

#### B. Under Four Weeks.

Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illigitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL

Rate per 1,000 LIVE Births NIL.





COMPARABILITY FACTORS.

BIRTHS	1.12
DEATHS	0.98

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS  
( CRUDE RATES)

Year	Live births		Deaths (all - causes)		Still-births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Total (under 1 Year )		Mortality Neo-natal (under 4 weeks)	
	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n
1954	37	13.0	32	11.3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1953	32	11.3	34	12.1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	31	NIL	NIL
1952	44	15.6	35	12.4	1	22	NIL	NIL	1	25	NIL	NIL
1951	40	14.1	53	18.7	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	25	NIL	NIL
1950	51	17.8	41	14.3	1	19	NIL	NIL	3	59	2	39
1949	47	16.3	49	17.0	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
England & Wales 1953.		15.5		11.4		22.4		-		26.8		

ADJUSTED Live Birth Rate (comparability factor 1.12) = 14.6 per 1,000

ADJUSTED Death Rate (comparability factor 0.98) = 11.0 per 1,000





ANALYSIS OF CAUSE OF DEATH.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
2. Tuberculosis, Other	1	-	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	1	-	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	-	1	1
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasm	2	4	6
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	4	1	5
18. Colorary Disease, Angina	1	1	2
20. Other Heart Disease	-	4	4
21. Other Circulatory Disease	1	1	2
24. Bronchitis	1	2	3
26. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	1	2
32. Other Defined & Ill-defined Diseases	-	3	3
34. All other Accidents	-	1	1
35. Suicide	-	1	1
ALL CAUSES	12	20	32



SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health:- J.Walker, M.B., C.H.B., L.D.S., D.P.H.,  
D.P.D.,

Other public appointments.

M.O.H. Chorley Borough

M.O.H. Leyland U.D.C.

M.O.H. Longridge U.D.C.

M.O.H. Preston R.D.C.

Divisional Medical Officer of Health  
Division No. 4

Sanitary Inspector:- Reginald Barker Hall,  
a part time officer holding the appointment  
of Surveyor.

Remuneration

No other Public Health Officers held office during 1954

LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Laboratory at Preston Royal Infirmary was available for the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases of infectious disease and for pathological specimens for ordinary disease.

Similar use of this laboratory was made for the bacteriological examination of samples of milk, water and ice cream etc.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Provided by the Lancashire County Council Ambulance Service.  
(Chorley Depot) - Telephone Chorley 2744.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There is one "District Nurse" practising in the area.  
She is Nurse J. Garnett, 12, Queen's Way, Brinscall, Nr. Chorley,

TREATMENT CLINIC FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The "Minor Ailment" Clinic is held at 20, St. Thomas's Road, Chorley each Monday at 10.30 a.m.  
Ancillary School Clinics (Orthopaedic, Dental and Eye etc.) are held at Chorley and attended by Practitioners of Specialist Status.  
Attendance is by appointment via School Medical Staff.

CHEST CLINIC.

The Chest Clinic is at 34, St. Thomas's Road, Chorley.  
The Chest Physician attends each Tuesday at 10. a.m. This Clinic is a consultant clinic for all chest conditions.

VENERAL DISEASE CLINICS.

Held at Chorley and District Hospital, Wigan Infirmary, and Bolton Infirmary.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

For non-infectious cases - Chorley and District Hospital, Preston Infirmary, Blackburn Royal Infirmary and Sharoe Green.

For infectious cases - Isolation Hospital, Heath Charnock.

Small pox - Smallpox Hospital at Ainsworth, Nr. Bury.

Tuberculosis - Sanatorium ( 50 beds at Isolation Hospital, Heath Charnock). All administered by Manchester Regional Hospital Board.





COUNTY HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES.

These services are administered by the Lancashire County Council

Domiciliary Facilities.

There is one District Nurse, Midwife, Miss J. Garnett, 12, Queen's Way, Brinscall, Nr. Chorley, employed by the Lancashire County Council practising in this area.

Ante-Natal Clinics & Post Natal Clinics.

These Clinics are held on Fridays (at 10 a.m.) At 2-4, St. Thomas's Road, Chorley. They are attended by a consultant obstetrician. No appointment is necessary for the first visit.

Maternity Beds.

The available accommodation at Chorley is as follows:- Chorley and District Hospital and Laves Lane Hospital, Chorley.

Child Welfare Centres.

A child Welfare Clinic is held fortnightly (Tuesdays 2-4 p.m.) at the Withnell Conservative Club, and is attended fortnightly by a Medical Officer (Dr.J. Doherty) of the Lancashire County Council as well as the County Health Visitor. Ministry of Food Welfare Foods and other propriety baby foods may be obtained at this clinic.

Health Visitors.

The County's Health Visitor for the area is Nurse P. Richmond who is available to give advice on all the County Health and Welfare Services. She may be consulted through the Divisional Office, 44, Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston (Telephone Preston 77265)

Home Helps.

A Home Help Service in cases of Sickness, Maternity or Old Age is available in the area. Applications for Home Helps should be made to the Divisional Health Office, 44, Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston (Telephone 77265).

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was:-

Types of Tuberculosis	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
Respiratory	16	16	16	18	17
Non Respiratory	2	5	4	7	7

There were no primary notifications (Respiratory) in 1954 and one Death.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1954.

Age.Period.Years	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL





# HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Infectious Diseases were admitted to the Joint Hospital at Heath Charnock.

Smallpox cases - there were none - would be admitted to the Ainsworth Hospital at Bury.

## ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifiable Disease.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.										
	Total all ages	Age period - Years.									
		0-1	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	20-25-	35-45-	65-	
Smallpox	NIL										
Scarlet Fever	5				2	2		1			
Diphtheria	NIL										
Measles	94	3	10	26	52	3					
Whooping Cough	NIL										
Acute pneumonia	2								1	1	
Erysipelas	1								1		
Puerperal pyrexia	NIL										
Poliomyelitis	NIL										
Meningococcal Infection	NIL										
Totals	102	3	10	26	54	5		1	2	1	

There are 94 cases of measles included in the above table as compared with 12 in the previous year. The number of notifiable infectious disease was otherwise low.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Milk Production.

Under the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 inspection and supervision of milk production is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Local Authority is responsible for the cleanliness and safety of Milk Retailed in the district. Five samples were taken and were satisfactory

### Meat and Other Foods.

All meat during the year came from the Central Depot in Blackburn until restrictions ceased, Meat is now brought direct as there is no private slaughterhouses in the district.

Tinned meat, fruit and vegetables were inspected and in ... cases where necessary were voluntarily surrendered for condemnation. No Statutory action was necessary.

### Ice Cream.

No samples of Ice Cream were taken for analysis under the Ice Cream(Heat Treatment)Regulations.

### Bakehouses.

Five bakehouses exist, and were in good condition during the year.

### Water Supply.

The supply is obtained from the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks Undertaking from Withnell Reservoir (upland surface water).

927 dwelling houses and an estimated population of 2,700 persons are supplied with this water.

19 bacteriological examinations of water were made in the year of these 10 were satisfactory and 9 unsatisfactory. Proposed scheme for the installation of Micro-strainer and chlorinator submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government which has been approved in principle. A new chlorinator was installed and has produced satisfactory results in treated water supply.

A further 30 dwellings houses - estimated population 90 - obtain their water from private supplies. There was one report of an unsatisfactory private water supply during 1954. The matter is receiving attention.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

There are two Sew. Disposal Works with settlement tanks and sprinklers and one Works with settlement tanks and contact beds, the effluent being dealt with by land irrigation. The only areas without proper drainage systems are isolated farms and premises which are a considerable distance from any sewer.

### Closet Accommodation at end of 1954.

Privy Middens	None
Pail Closets	180
Dry Ashpits	58
Moveable Ashbins	889
Waste Water Closets	37
Fresh Water Closets	826
Houses on Water carriage system	870

During the year 5 Closets were converted to Fresh Water Closets The onus for the satisfactory maintenance of drains and closets is on the owners and such work is not undertaken by the Local Authority.

### Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of house refuse was carried out weekly by the Council. The refuse was collected by motor lorry, and disposed of by controlled tipping.

### Sanitary Inspections.

The number of inspections for nuisances and for defects during the year was 26 and 20 found to be defective, 19 of these were abated and 20 informal notices were served. 4 statutory Notices were served, and there were no legal proceedings.





## HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

	Houses	Flats.
(i) By the Local Authority.	12	-
(ii) By other Local Authorities.	-	-
(iii) By other bodies or persons.	-	-

### Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.)	26
	(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose.	40
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	-
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	-
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	20

### Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	19
--	----

### Action under statutory powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs. | - |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit:        |   |
|     | (a) By owners   |   |
|     | (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.  |   |

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- |     |  |  |
|-----|--|--|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring to be remedied. |  |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-         |  |
|     | (a) By owners  |  |
|     | (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.   |  |

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

- |     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made (Closing Orders) | 3 |
|     | (7a)   |   |





(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings "not to occupy" were accepted by the Local Authority.

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses, separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made

1

(2) Number of Closing Orders which were determined, the premises having been rendered fit.

1

(e) Proceedings under section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of clearance area represented

nil

(2) Number of houses concerned. in (1)

(3) Number of area cleared

(4) Number of houses concerned on (3)

(5) Number of residents displaced in (3) and (4)

(6) Number of houses built by Local Authority to re-house residents displaced under Clearance Orders

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. 4

(2) Number of families dwelling therein. 6

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 39

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. NIL

(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year NIL

Number of persons concerned in such cases. NIL



### Housing and Housing Conditions.

Mainly due to the high cost of repairs in relation to the market value of the property (mostly old), difficulty is being experienced in administering the relevant sections of the Housing and Public Health Act.

The main type of house in the area is the cottage type built in rows with either four or five habitable rooms. The main defects are defective walls, roofs, gutters, spouts and windows.

Overcrowding is generally due to lodgers.

There are five inhabited back to back houses. There are no inhabited back to earth houses.

### Factories and Workshops.

General supervision was exercised over the sanitary conveniences and hygiene of the thirteen factories and five "other premises" registered with the Local Authority. Six inspections were made; two sanitary defects were found and were remedied. Seven smoke observations were made and were satisfactory.

### Swimming Baths and Pool.

The Council owns the Public Baths. The plunge is 75 feet by 25 feet. Slipper baths are also provided. There are no privately owned baths. Daily tests are taken to ensure that the water is efficiently chlorinated, two samples were taken in bacteriological analysis and found to be satisfactory.

### Clean Food Campaign.

39 inspections of food premises were made during the year. Defects discovered were remedied by voluntary action.

